

WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair to-day; to-morrow partly cloudy;
gentle to moderate winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 85; lowest, 61.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 319.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1918.—Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

AMERICANS STOP GERMAN DRIVE FOR PARIS; FORCE ENEMY OVER MARNE; CAPTURE 1,000; HELP FRENCH HALT ATTACK ON 65 MILE FRONT

CITY FIREMEN VOTE TO JOIN LABOR UNION

As Part of American Federation They Will Keep
Up Wage Fight.

TO ASK EIGHT HOUR DAY

More Decided Upon After the
Board of Estimate Fails to
Act on Increase.

The firemen of New York voted last night to join the American Federation of Labor. As a labor union, as part of the International Association of Fire Fighters, the Central Federation Union of New York and the branch of the body, they will not only continue their fight for a living wage, which the Hyman administration has thus far denied them, but they have larger aims in view. It is indicated that in due time they will seek in Albany legislation giving them the eight hour day instead of the twenty-four hour day that is now theirs. For a long time they have tried to obtain for themselves the two platoon system. Now, judging from things that were said at last night's meeting, their goal will be three platoons. The meeting took place in Vera Cruz Hall, 305 East Twenty-third street. It was attended by about 800 members of New York and the branch of the International Association of Fire Fighters. They represented the "blue shirts"—the privates as distinguished from the officers—in all the fire houses of the city. There are 3,856 firemen. All but about 300 of them are members of the association.

Whole Association Pledged.
The whole association is pledged by last night's action to become members of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which is a branch of the American Federation of Labor. The vote was unanimous. When the president of the association, Albert E. Guinness, submitted his comrades to the test on the adoption of a resolution applying for a charter from the International Association and asked for everybody in favor to rise every man stood up. Completely appreciating the momentous nature of the decision and aware that it might lead to consequences which to many could foresee, the 600 voted "Yes" with a mighty shout. There was no dissent. The proponents of the movement had hoped that there might be so that every possible objection and fear could be answered. But, exasperated by the failure of the Board of Estimate to give any answer to their plea for a 10 per cent. increase, of which every proof of necessity had been offered, the firemen were found to be in a mood, some of them said, to "make the big sum of money sink or swim, as the case might be."

Organizers of the American Federation of Labor, who had been rebuffed for two years in their efforts to convert the New York firemen to unionism, resumed their argument last week at just the right time, as the event of last night proved.

Board Ignored Warning.
So far as known, no member of the Hyman administration knew that the move was immediately contemplated. Although the Board of Estimate was publicly warned more than two weeks ago that if it didn't hurry and give the blue shirts some relief from the crushing burden they have been bearing they would be driven into organized labor. No heed was given to this warning.

Nor was Commissioner Drennon or Chief Knickerbocker aware that the firemen seriously purposed to make common cause with unionism. The meetings of the association are always private, and this one was no exception. Some of the men said frankly that they might be trouble for them at headquarters, but they were game to face it. They were heartened by this announcement from Thomas G. Spivey, general president of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

"Deliver this message to the men in the fire houses: According to President Wilson's communication to the War Labor Board the right of workers to organize in trade unions and to bargain collectively is affirmed, and this right shall not be abridged. If any one tries to deny this right to you men we will take it up with the War Labor Board. We will bring a representative of the Federal Conciliation Board to New York and go to the last with any city official in the United States on their right to question your right to organize."

"And don't forget this: In the great battle to make the world safe for democracy democracy shall not be denied us."

The resolution follows:
"Whereas the uniformed firemen of the city of New York for more than twenty years have endeavored to obtain relief from a system which requires a twenty-four hour day; and
Whereas said uniformed firemen are desirous to remain nine days on duty in order to receive one day for recreation, making their compensation, when mandatory expenses are deducted, less than 20 cents an hour at a time when

KERENSKY LOSES PRESTIGE; POSTPONES AMERICAN TRIP

Association With Paris Socialists Who Obstruct War Plans Arouses Open Hostility of French and He Abandons United States Visit.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
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PARIS, July 15.—For reasons which no one seems to wish to explain, the heralded voyage of Alexander Kerensky, former Premier of Russia, to the United States has been postponed.

It is difficult to say whether the decision to delay the trip is final, although it is known that numbers of Kerensky's followers in Paris have pointed out to him that a journey to the United States would be futile at this time. Since his arrival in Paris two weeks ago, the former Russian dictator seems to have lost considerable prestige. His close association with the extreme Socialists, those who openly oppose a

continuation of the war and even hinder the Government in its execution of the conflict, has displeased a large number of French citizens. The opinion is general here that, so far as Kerensky has failed to present a tangible plan for saving Russia. A part of the press has become openly hostile. Kerensky, it must be said in his favor, did not endorse the view of the extremists from whom he accepted honors, such as banquets. His position all along has been that a vigorous allied policy in Siberia would do most toward restoring his country. Kerensky's best friends here are a unit in the belief that his decision to postpone his trip to America was wisely taken.

OCEAN PRIZE LURES FLIERS

British Aviators Predict Americans Will Win \$50,000 Award.

SEE NO GREAT OBSTACLE
Only War Needs Prevent the English Airmen From Making Attempt.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
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LONDON, July 15.—The renewal of the Daily Mail's offer of a \$50,000 prize for the first flight across the Atlantic has aroused the greatest interest in British aviation circles. The opinion is general among experts that there ought to be no great difficulty in making the first transatlantic flight in an airplane, now that the machines of the speed and carrying capacity which have been developed as a result of the war. Opinion here is that the machine which attempts the flight should have at least two engines, so that the failure of one would not necessarily mean disaster. Landing gear of the machine is unnecessary, the experts point out, since an average speed of 100 miles an hour and an average altitude of 2,000 feet would be sufficient. Handley-Page, inventor and manufacturer of a famous large British bombing machine, said to-day:

"We can accomplish the flight across the Atlantic to-morrow, but the British Air Board objects, quite rightly, on the ground that our present business is to build machines to defeat the Germans. The Atlantic flight can wait."

"It is probable an attempt will be made to cross the Atlantic from the American side, and this probably will be done in the near future."

Forty Mineola Men
SEEK FIRST HONOR
Expert U. S. Pilots Would Try to Cross Atlantic.

Forty officers of the First Provisional Wing at Mineola, L. I., have provided selection as fliers to make the first transatlantic flight in an airplane, now that the feasibility of the project is admitted. The men are all crack pilots who have won their double wings.

The petitions, which were received by Major C. K. Rhinehart, were headed by Capt. P. H. Harvey and had the endorsement of Major W. K. East, who is in command of the fliers of Group A, Field Number Two. Major Rhinehart endorsed the petitions and also listed his own name.

The complete list is as follows: Capt. P. H. Harvey, Lieut. F. C. Davidson, M. B. Kelleher, L. S. Rittenbaugh, J. P. Boyd, S. M. Connell, H. C. King, J. H. Hoare, N. E. King, E. K. Merritt, A. H. Halley, B. S. Hunt, G. C. Beck, J. M. Peyster, D. H. Hinman, A. P. Brock, M. G. Cleary, J. K. Sherman, L. W. Green, E. J. Rose, H. M. Stoffregen, A. A. Boggs, J. Y. Longstreet, E. S. Munford, J. W. Meany, J. I. Moore, F. B. Welsh, P. F. Houser, W. A. Henderson, H. C. Garratt, W. Benner, U. G. Jones, Earl Carroll and K. L. Clark.

Italy Expects Good Harvest.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—A generally favorable national situation in Italy, with unusually good harvest prospects, was reported to the State Department to-day in despatches from Rome.

OPEN TALK OF GERMAN REVOLT

Dutchman Tells of Meeting Where Revolution Was Urged.

IRON CROSS MEN THERE
Police Also Listened and Did Not Interfere With the Speakers.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.
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THE HAGUE, July 15.—A Dutchman recently returned from the German city of Hamburg, Westphalia, brought back a story which throws much light on the internal situation in the empire. This man attended a meeting Sunday, along with 700 others, the majority being women. At this meeting he said there was open talk of revolution, and despite the fact that soldiers and policemen were present in uniform, many of the former wearing iron crosses won on the battlefield, there was no restraint shown by the speakers in their attack on the Government.

The meeting lasted for 4 in the afternoon until 9 in the evening. There was one main speaker, who occupied the stand two hours, and several lesser speakers. All the speakers agreed the only way to end the war was by revolution in Germany, and whenever reference was made to "our brothers in Russia" there was hearty applause. The German Socialist party, the traveler said, was now centered upon raising the support of the soldiers, an enterprise in which they are making much headway. The soldiers who attended the meeting, together with the police, listened to the speakers quietly, without comment or sign of approval or disapproval.

One speaker who protested that this was not a suitable time to start a revolution, and that to do so would simply be playing England's game, was hooted down with howls of derision and requested "not to talk nonsense." He was informed by several among the audience that what Germany wanted was peace, and that it mattered how peace was obtained. He was also told that nothing could be worse than the present situation, and that, moreover, the German people couldn't hold out much longer.

This latter fact is more apparent each day, the traveler said. The population is growing weaker and weaker, due to undernourishment. The traveler, whose business requires him to spend much time in Germany, said he had become weakened by lack of food during his travels, having eaten nothing but turnips during the last trip. His impression was that things had just about reached the breaking point in Germany.

FLIERS BUSY BASTILLE DAY.

Made Reconnaissance, Bombed Depots and Dredgers—Last Five.

LONDON, July 15.—The official statement on aerial operations issued to-night says:
The morning of July 14 our airplanes completed several reconnaissance missions and carried out much observation for our artillery. The afternoon was wet and stormy. The sidings at Roulers, ammunition dumps at Warnefontaine and Bapaume, docks at Bruges and dredging parties at Zeebrugge were heavily bombed. Nine hostile machines were brought down and three balloons were shot down in flames. Five of our machines are missing.

DOUBLE BLOW DEALT TO FOE BY AMERICANS

German Plan to Boast of Victory Over Yankee Troops Shattered.

N. Y. TROOPS WIN FAME

Old 69th Among Regiments of Rainbow Division Believed to Be in Action.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, July 15.—American troops of the fighting First Corps, commanded by Major-Gen. Hunter Liggett, which have been holding part of the Marne front, have met the impact of the Germans at the very gateway to Paris and have held their ground, according to the latest reports. This encouraging news reached here to-night after a day of great anxiety caused by the early report showing that the Germans were driving against part of the front held by our troops at the nearest point to the French capital. Late to-night the War Department was eagerly awaiting official advice from Gen. Pershing, which were expected momentarily. Based on the reports which have been filtering through during the day from the fighting zone, the American forces, engaged in large numbers for the first time in withstanding a major offensive, have in defending their positions made a name for themselves that will go down in history.

Washington Is Proud.
Some of the fiercest fighting for the Americans occurred west of Chateau Thierry near Vaux. This town was captured brilliantly by the American troops on July 1. The troops which at last reports were holding this part of the line were the Second Division of the First Corps, made up of the Ninth and Twenty-third Regular Infantry, the Twelfth, Fifteenth and Seventeenth Regular Field Artillery and the Fifth and Sixth regiments of Marines. These troops are believed to have been placed from Vaux to an impossible Chateau Thierry. It is regarded as possible that in addition to the regulars and marines some of the National Guard troops in this corps were engaged. The National Guard troops in this division are the Twenty-sixth Division of New Englanders, the Rainbow Division which would include the old Sixty-ninth New York and the Thirty-third or Sunset Division. These troops and the regulars last May were moved up from the Lorraine front to positions near to-day's battle zone.

So far as is indicated to-night at no place was there a retreat, though immediately beyond the American position the Germans have succeeded in crossing the Marne. The news that the Americans behaved in a manner to merit the commendation of the French commander has brought a feeling of great satisfaction to Gen. March and other officers of the General Staff, though it is realized that there have been undoubtedly heavy casualties.

The following statement was issued by Secretary Baker after the night reports from the front had been given him:
The attack made by the Germans is evidently the result of careful preparations. It covers a wide front and is made in force. We are at the end of the first day of a great battle. The reports so far are encouraging and seem to indicate both heavy fighting and effective resistance along the entire front.

Plan of Germans.

To-day's news brought a tenseness here unequaled since the war began and riveted attention of all officials from the President down for the time being upon the American forces known to be engaged on the sector extending either side of Chateau Thierry. This point is only forty-two miles from Paris as the crow flies. Late this afternoon President Wilson, to whom the early reports of the resumption of the great drive had been carried, went to the office of Secretary Baker, where he remained forty-five minutes.

While no official reports had at that time been received it is understood that the President had explained to him by Secretary Baker the disposition of the American forces and the identity of the troops probably engaged in one of the greatest battles of the entire war. Looking at the battle front of to-day as a whole, the military experts here saw an attempt of the Germans to straighten out one side of the wedge whose head points toward Paris at Chateau Thierry, with the immediate objective the wiping out of the Rheims salient. An advance of the Germans here would seriously threaten the railroad trunk line running through Chateau-sur-Marne and also many important supply depots. While the Germans have crossed the Marne at several places below Dormans, it is believed here that Gen. Foch, commander in chief of the allied armies, has sufficient reserves to stop them be-

Continued on Second Page.

YANKEE CHARGE ROUTS TEUTONS; 1,000 CAPTURED

Germans in Wild Retreat Before Counter Drive at Conde en Brie.

BRIGADE STAFF TAKEN

"Stone Wall" of U. S. Machine Gunners Spoils Foe's Plan to Bridge Marne.

By HERBERT BAILEY.
Special Cable Despatch to The Sun and the Public Ledger.
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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 15.—American units were involved at various points in the fighting to-day. At 6 o'clock this morning the Germans attempted a determined raid against Vaux and succeeded in reaching the village, but were quickly repulsed by the Americans, who improved their positions and captured by the Germans in command of the operation. On the other side of Chateau Thierry (to the east) the Americans most heavily engaged. Between 5 and 6 o'clock, the enemy, under cover of smoke, crossed the Marne on a front of an American unit resting on the banks of the river. In coming over on pontoon bridges, which he had rapidly thrown across the river, the enemy met a severe artillery and machine gun fire. He pushed steadily on, but the Americans counter-attacked so excellently that they drove the Germans back to the road. The Americans won much praise, the French army commander sending his congratulations. One of the features of the attack has been the shelling of towns miles behind the lines. At 6 o'clock this morning residents far in the rear of the battle lines were startled by the explosions of shells. This was the first announcement that the long awaited offensive by the Germans had begun.

AMERICANS' ACTION UPSETS THE ENEMY

Break Into Retreat Before Counter Thrust.

By the Associated Press.
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE MARNE, July 15.—In the early hours of this morning, the German Army to-day launched an attack on the Americans, who are holding the western side of the Marne salient, centering their attack on Vaux. The troops from the United States met the onslaught gallantly, raising the advancing Germans with machine gun fire, and then counter-attacked with marked effect. It soon became apparent that the first advance was a feint, however, and within a short time fighting developed along a front of more than 65 miles, extending around the bend to the Marne, to Chateau Thierry, and thence east along the Champagne line.

Brigade Staff Taken.

To the west the Americans held like a stone wall. To the extreme east the French and Americans combined met the onrush with a whirlwind of machine gun opposition. But in the center, to the region east of Dormans, a river point marking the southern edge of the salient, the Ger-

Continued on Second Page.

Cheered by Tobacco, a Soldier Poetizes

ADDRESSING his old faithful pipe, a soldier at the front sings:

"You've been with me all night out in No Man's Land
Where the star lights flash in the sky.
Where the slightest move meant a trail of lead,
And the slightest sound, to die."
Other verses may be read on page 5, but how quickly the soldier would drop into prose if THE SUN Tobacco Fund had not filled his pipe for him!

Children of Scarborough-on-Hudson are arranging a fete for the fund on the afternoon of July 27. The little ones are all devoted to the interests (the smoke interests) of the soldiers.

Continued on Second Page.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLE

LONDON, July 15.—Following are the official statements of to-day's fighting on the front in France:

FRENCH (NIGHT).—The German attack launched this morning at 4:30 o'clock continued throughout the day on both sides of Rheims with equal violence.

West of Rheims desperate engagements were fought in the region of Reuilly, Courthiez and Vassy, south of the Marne, which the enemy succeeded in crossing at several points between Fossey and Dormans.

A spirited counter attack carried out by the American troops drove back on the right bank of the river enemy contingents who had reached that bank southwest of Fossey. Between Dormans and Rheims the Franco-Italian troops resisted with tenacity along the line of Chatillon-sur-Marne, Cuchery, Marfaux and Bouilly.

East of Rheims the enemy attack which extended from Sillery to the Main de Massiges hit up against an irreducible defence. The enemy multiplied his effort on Prunay and Les Marquises and in the regions north of Prosmes and Souain, but was not able, despite repeated attacks, to cut into our combat positions.

FRENCH (DAY).—After violent artillery preparation, the Germans attacked this morning from Chateau Thierry as far as the Main de Massiges.

French troops are meeting energetically the shock of the enemy on a front of about eighty kilometers (about fifty miles). The battle is in progress.

BRITISH (NIGHT).—This morning we again advanced our lines slightly in the neighborhood of Villers-Bretonneux and drove off a party of the enemy which attacked one of our posts.

The total number of prisoners taken in yesterday's operations at Ridge Wood is 328.

On the remainder of the British front there is nothing of special interest to report.

BRITISH (DAY).—The local operation in the Dickebusch Lake sector yesterday morning was completely successful.

We advanced on a 2,000 yard front, taking Ridge Wood and attaining all our objectives. We captured 296 prisoners, several machine guns and much other material.

The enemy artillery displayed activity in the region south of Arras, and on the Flanders front, north of Bethune, and in the Loere and Dickebusch sectors.

GERMAN (NIGHT).—To the southwest and east of Rheims we penetrated into parts of the French positions.

GERMAN (DAY).—South of Ypres the enemy attacked yesterday morning after strong artillery preparation and penetrated our fighting zone on a limited breadth.

There was artillery activity throughout the day on both sides of the Ys. It was revived during the evening on the remainder of the front. Between the Aisne and the Marne the fighting continued lively. Local infantry engagements have taken place south of St. Pierre Aigle and in the Savieres region.

CHALONS IS AIM, BIDOU ASSERTS

Holding That Point With Thierry Would Dominate Region.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

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PARIS, July 15.—Henri Bidou, the military critic, writing in the Journal des Debats to-day on the new German offensive, remarks:

"The first news is good news. The line as a whole holds firm. That is all one can say at this moment. We can hardly doubt that the enemy desires to maneuver by his left on Chalons. It is evident that in holding Chalons and Chateau Thierry he would render the Rheims region difficult to defend and would form a base on the Marne for subsequent operations."

"The maneuver, considered in relation to Paris, would be one of those which operations the necessity of which is indicated as a preface to final operations against the capital."

PARIS, July 15.—"After a pause of somewhat unusual length," writes Lieut.-Col. Roussel in Liberte, "the enemy has resumed action. He has chosen the night following the French national fete, hoping to catch us napping. Such caution was gross error, but in true tactical manner. The enemy neither surprised us nor caught us unawares. The attack was begun where we had reason to anticipate it."

"Our army in the Champagne, commanded by Gen. G., is sustaining the attack with the valor it already has shown so often in the same region. The Champagne attack was accompanied by a diversion on the Ourcq front, which our artillery in reply repulsed by its violence and rapidity."

"It was our cannon, from Villers-Cotterets to the Marne, that Parisians heard last night. The German attack in that direction met with a formidable barrage which the attackers could not leave their lines."

"It was between Dormans and Rheims that the enemy threw the greatest mass of his forces this morning, seeking to cross the Marne."

"Rheims appears so far to be outside the enemy's attack. Upon the rest of the front of battle we are holding in the face of the Marne. Through their right resting on the river at Chateau Thierry."

When the first reports of the battle were received this morning it was apparent to military observers here that the Germans had not been able to make a surprise attack. The French expected this attack, and had accumulated great forces to meet it. Nowhere along the entire line was there an alarming penetration, and as the reports of the battle came in the confidence of the people grew visibly.

Maximum Penetration by Enemy Is Only a Mile and a Half.

FAILS EAST OF RHEIMS

Crossing of Marne Made Only at Cost of Enormous Loss of Life.

KEPT FROM HIGH GROUND

Foch Knew of Enemy's Plans and Thus Was Enabled to Counter the Blow.

By GERALD CAMPBELL.
Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

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WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, July 15.—The allied armies undoubtedly are prepared for a much more violent onslaught than any the Germans made to-day, even if the Chateau Thierry-Champagne attack is meant only as a diversion, with the object of drawing some of our troops from the north or using up our reserves, to be followed by an attempt to overwhelm the British.

Until yesterday a fairly strong wind blew from the south, and there was some rain. To-day it looks like we are in for a spell of dry weather, which seems an unfavourable accompaniment of German offensives.

As yet it is impossible to tell how many divisions the Germans are using in their latest attack, though we may take it for granted they have more men than are opposing them. Still, taking everything into consideration, including the advantage which necessarily lies with the attacking force, there is no reason why we should not face the next few days in a spirit of perfect confidence, even if the enemy should gain some ground in the beginning.

LONDON, July 15.—In their fifth attempt to force a decision on the western front the Germans apparently have been stopped in their tracks at the start.

The newest effort, launched to-day from Chateau Thierry east to Maison de Champagne, on a front of sixty-five miles, yielded the first day only an inconsiderable gain in territory. The cost in men, due in a large part to American forces encountered, was frightful. Against a first day gain of approximately eight miles in the offensive of March 21 the maximum penetration of the Kaiser's hordes was only a mile and a half, and that was an isolated advance. At other places they were slain of failure.

The German official night statement is a tacit admission of failure. The statement merely says: "To the southwest and east of Rheims we penetrated into parts of the French positions."

Ignores American Stone Wall.

The eloquence of this statement is its silence—its failure to mention the heavy opposition encountered just east of Chateau Thierry, where the Americans, counter-attacking after the Germans had crossed the river, and captured 1,500 prisoners, including a complete brigade staff.

Nor does the German statement mention the slaughter inflicted upon the soldiers of the Kaiser as they crossed the Marne, where in droves they marched into the muzzles of French and American machine and field guns, and in droves were annihilated.

The Germans crossed the Marne in the sector held by the Americans, penetrating some distance into the American positions. Then by a brilliant counter attack the Americans drove them all back to their original positions across the river. To-night there is not a German on the south bank of the Marne in the sector held by the Americans.

East of Rheims the French, according to the Paris War Office, held like a stone wall, and the best evidence that this is true is the absence of any account of success in the German report. If the Germans had broken through the French lines in any considerable number there would have been mention of it in the statement from Berlin.

French Defence Still Intact.

In contrast to the Berlin statement, a semi-official announcement was made in Paris to-night to the effect that the first day of the new offensive is favorable to the Allies, and that the French defensive system in no way has been affected and is still intact. The statement says:

While in previous attacks the enemy, thanks to surprise, carried important positions, like the Chemin-des-Dames, and advanced several miles, this time the battle has en-

Continued on Fifth Page.